JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has called upon Government to keep the list of minorities at the barest minimum and ultimately to dispense with it completely;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) In the case of Bal Patil and Another Versus Union of India and Others relating to inclusion of "Jains" in the list of Minorities Communities notified by the Central Government, the Supreme Court of India has *inter-alia* made the observation that the Commission instead of encouraging claims from different communities for being added to a list of notified minorities under the Act, should suggest ways and means to help create social conditions where the list of notified minorities is gradually reduced and done away with altogether.

(c) Government is already following policies for socio-economic development of weaker sections of the society.

Allotment of flats under Festival Housing Scheme, 2004

2068. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority have allotted flats at Nasirpur (Dwarka)in New Delhi under the Festival-Housing Scheme, 2004;

(b) if so, whether possession of all the flats to successful candidates have been handed over by the DDA;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware that though these flats need extensive repairs, the DDA has not repaired these flats even though the possession in some cases have been given 4 or 5 months ago and the DDA has already collected the entire amount from the allottees;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether DDA has taken any action against the erring officers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that after receipt of full payment and required documents, possession letters are issued to the allottees,.The possession of all the flats, except four, have been taken overby the allottees after the issue of possession letters by DDA.

(d) to (g) DDA has reported that the flats were lying vacant for some time and required some repair. Repair work in such flats has been taken up and also completed in some cases.

Increase in **reservation quota for disabled**

†2069. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the reservation quota for disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Practice of untouchability

2070. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a recent study has revealed that there are 80 forms of "untouchability" practices reported against daiits;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps contemplated to wipe off these practices?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No such study report has been submitted to the Central Government.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.